

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A starter for an internal combustion engine including a planetary gear speed reduction mechanism, a pinion to be engaged with a ring gear of said engine and a pinion drive shaft connected to said speed reduction mechanism, comprising:

a motor having a motor housing with a first outside diameter and a motor shaft;

a front housing ~~having a flange~~ for supporting said pinion drive shaft, said ~~flange~~ front housing having a bearing for supporting said pinion drive shaft at ~~an one~~ end of said shaft and an integrally formed and radially-outwardly extending flange for providing a plurality of fastening holes disposed at a circumference having second diameter through which a plurality of fastening bolts is fixed to a portion of said internal combustion engine; and

a center casing having approximately the same outside diameter as said motor housing and a bearing for supporting said pinion drive shaft at the other end, said center casing being disposed between said motor housing and said front housing for aligning said motor shaft, said planetary gear speed reduction mechanism and said pinion drive shaft; and

adjusting means for fixing said front housing to a selected angular position of said center casing, wherein a difference between said first diameter and said second diameter is larger than a maximum outside diameter of said fastening bolt so that said fastening bolt can be inserted into said fastening hole along outer peripheries of said motor housing.

2. (Previously Amended) The starter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said difference is larger than outside diameter of a socket wrench.

3. (Original) The starter as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an end frame having a plurality of radially projecting fixing portions disposed away from said fastening holes so as not to obstruct said socket wrench.

4. (Original) The starter as claimed in claim 1, wherein
said first outside diameter of said motor housing is between 100 mm and 118 mm, and

said planetary gear speed reduction mechanism has a speed reduction ratio between 3.8 and 4.4.

5. (Previously Amended) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a dust seal disposed between said front housing and said center housing.

6. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a rotary member connected to said pinion drive shaft, wherein said dust seal has an inner edge that contacts an outer periphery of said rotary member.

7. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 6, wherein said rotary member comprises an overrunning clutch.

8. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further including a plurality of projecting members projecting radially outward, wherein

said adjusting means locates each of said fastening holes away from said projecting members.

9. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 8, wherein said adjusting means provides at least two angular positions that locate all said fastening holes away from said projecting members.

10. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 8, wherein said fastening bolts respectively have bolt heads, and said projecting members project radially outward from an inscribed circle of said bolt heads.

11. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an electromagnetic plunger and fastening means for fixing said center housing and said motor housing together, wherein said electromagnetic plunger and said fastening means are disposed to project radially outward from the outer periphery of said motor housing and to be spaced apart from each other in the circumferential direction.

12. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 11, wherein said fastening bolts respectively have bolt heads, and said fastening means projects radially outward from an inscribed circle of said bolt heads.

13. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an electromagnetic plunger disposed around said motor housing and fastening means, disposed around said motor housing, for fixing said motor housing and said center housing together, wherein

said fastening means comprises a first fastening unit disposed at a first angular position away from said electromagnetic plunger in one circumferential direction and a second fastening unit disposed at a second angular position away from said electromagnetic plunger in the other circumferential direction, and wherein

said adjusting means locates one of said fastening holes between said electromagnetic plunger and said first fastening unit and another of said fastening holes between said electromagnetic plunger and said second fastening unit.

14. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 13, wherein said fastening bolts respectively have bolt heads, and said first and second fastening units project radially outward from an inscribed circle of said bolt heads.

15. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, further comprising fastening means, disposed around said motor housing, for fixing said center housing and said motor housing together, wherein

said adjusting means is capable of locating said fastening in holes both circumferential directions from said fastening means.

16. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 15, wherein said fastening bolts respectively have bolt heads, and said fastening means project radially outward from an inscribed circle of said bolt heads.

17. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 1, wherein said adjusting means comprises a certain number of through holes formed at said front housing, more than twice as many female screws as said through holes formed at said center casings and as many screw bolts as said through holes, and wherein said through holes and those of said female screws at selected angular positions are fastened by said screw bolts.

18. (Previously Presented) The starter as claimed in claim 17, wherein said through holes are disposed at positions where each of said fastening holes can be located away from said projecting members.